



(OCLP 2003)

## **PART 6: PREPARERS, PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AND AGENCY CONSULTATION**

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## PART 6: PREPARERS, PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AND AGENCY CONSULTATION



Photographs from the Forest Management Plan open house. (MABI 2004)

## 6.1 PREPARERS

### 6.1.1 PLANNING TEAM

The team responsible for developing this Forest Management Plan and Environmental Assessment for Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park was established in 2003 and includes:

#### Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park

Rolf Diamant, Superintendent  
John Gilbert, Facility Manager  
Janet Houghton, Curator  
Kyle Jones, Ecologist  
Christina Marts, Resource Manager  
Joanna Bould, SCA Unilever Intern (2004)  
Justin Bangs, SCA Unilever Intern (2005)

#### NPS Conservation Study Institute

Nora Mitchell, Director  
Delia Clark, Director for Community Engagement  
Daniel Laven, Outdoor Recreation Planner

#### Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

Bob Page, Director  
Margie Coffin Brown, Historical Landscape Architect  
Jeff Killion, Historical Landscape Architect  
John Auwaerter, Historical Landscape Architect

#### Phil Huffman, Planning Consultant

#### Redstart Forestry, Inc.

Virginia Barlow, Consulting Forester  
Markus Bradley, Consulting Forester  
Ben Machin, Consulting Forester and GIS Consultant

#### Woodstock Foundation, Inc.

David Donath, President  
Marian Koetsier, Administrative Officer

#### Carolyn Bennett, ThinkGIS

#### Jane Crosen, Crackerjack Editorial Services

## **6.1.2 ADVISORS**

### **6.1.2.1 National Park Service, Northeast Region**

Dave Clark, Program Manager, Environmental Protection

Alan Ellsworth, Hydrologist

Mary Foley, Chief Scientist

Betsy Lyman, Coordinator, Exotic Plant Management Team

Greg Shriver, Coordinator, Northeast Temperate Inventory and  
Monitoring Network

Chuck Smythe, Ethnographer and Park 106 Advisor

Jennifer Waite, Director of Vermont Projects, Rivers and Trails

Paul Weinbaum, Program Manager, History and Park 106 Advisor

### **6.1.2.2 Town/Village of Woodstock, Vermont**

Michael Brands, Town Planner

Steve Clark, former chair, Woodstock Conservation Commission

Lea Kachadorian, Woodstock Conservation Commission

Byron Quinn, Chair, Woodstock Conservation Commission

### **6.1.2.3 Other Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals**

Nancy Bell, The Conservation Fund

Dale Bergdahl, Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources,  
University of Vermont

Jon Bouton, Windsor County Forester

Dave Capen, Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources,  
University of Vermont

MaryBeth McCubbin, Department of Landscape Architecture, Pennsylvania State  
University (formerly)

Janis Chiappetta, Woodstock Union Middle School

Bob Cooke, USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry

Doug Cross, Woodstock Union High School

John Dumville, Vermont State Historic Preservation Office

Judith Ehrlich, Vermont State Historic Preservation Office

John Elder, Department of English, Middlebury College

Steve Faccio, Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences

James Finley, School of Forest Resources, Pennsylvania State University

Elsa Gilbertson, Vermont State Historic Preservation Office

Eric Gilbertson, Vermont State Historic Preservation Office

Forrest Hammond, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Vermont Agency of  
Natural Resources

Rob Hanson, Pomfret School

John Heirs, Woodstock Union High School

William Jenney, Vermont State Historic Preservation Office

William Keeton, Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources,  
University of Vermont

Dave Lacy, Archeologist, USDA Forest Service and Park 106 Advisor  
Anne Lassard, Woodstock Union Middle School  
Jane Lendway, Vermont State Historic Preservation Officer  
Robert Manning, Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources,  
University of Vermont  
Kent McFarland, Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences  
Dan Nadenicek, Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture,  
Clemson University  
Debbie Pelkey, Woodstock Union Middle School  
Walter Poleman, Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources,  
University of Vermont  
Kathy Sennall, Woodstock Elementary School  
John Souter, Woodstock Elementary School  
Ken Tamminga, Department of Landscape Architecture, Pennsylvania  
State University  
Geri Tierney, Department of Environmental and Forest Biology, State University  
of New York  
Laurel Tobiason, Woodstock Union High School  
Grace Wang, School of Forest Resources, Pennsylvania State University (formerly)  
Sarah Woodhead, Pomfret School  
Tom Yahner, Department of Landscape Architecture, Pennsylvania  
State University

#### **6.1.2.4 Special Thanks**

Pete Fellows, Two-Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Planning Commission  
Greg Sharrow, Vermont Folklife Center  
John Wiggin, Consulting Forester  
Chuck Wise, Two-Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Planning Commission

## **6.2 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND AGENCY CONSULTATION**

### **6.2.1 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

The National Park Service has taken a comprehensive approach to public involvement. To date, the Park has prepared or held the following events to encourage broad public discussion about the Forest Management Plan:

- A letter announcing the initiation of the Plan and encouraging public involvement was published in the *Vermont Standard* in August 2003. The *Standard* is distributed to 4800 residents, primarily within the ten towns of Windsor County, Vermont.
- An announcement letter and a copy of “Trees and Ideas” by Tom Slayton (published in *Vermont Sunday Magazine*, November 16, 2003) was distributed

in February 2004 to the Forest Management Plan mailing list, composed of approximately 800 organizations, local, state, and federal agencies, Woodstock residents, and other interested stakeholders. The mailing solicited approximately ten responses.

- A display introducing the Forest Management Plan and topics of potential interest was exhibited at the Park's visitor center from September 27, 2003 to the end of December 2003. The exhibition of the display was announced in the Forest Celebration Weekend event publication that was distributed to over 1000 individuals and organizations on the Park's public event mailing list. Over fifty comments were written on the interactive visitor response boards of the display.
- Several focus group meetings were conducted as part of the scoping process. These included meetings with local teachers (October 7, 2003), staff of the Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences (April 29 2004), several Park cooperators (May 20, 2004), and researchers from the University of Vermont (June 4, 2004).
- A public scoping workshop was held on June 15, 2004 at the Park. An announcement for the workshop was distributed to the 800 individuals on the Forest Management Plan mailing list; posted in public buildings around Woodstock, Quechee, Windsor, and other local towns; printed in the *Vermont Standard*, *Rutland Herald*, and *Valley News*; and submitted to a number of environmental and forestry email list-serves.
- A correspondent from the *Vermont Standard* attended the scoping workshop on June 15, 2004, and wrote an article that discussed the Plan, draft alternatives, and opportunities for public input. The article was distributed in the paper on June 17, 2004.
- Several staff-led hikes on the "Future of the Forest" were offered during the summer of 2003 and 2004, and advertised in Park brochures and local papers.
- Individual meetings were held with local officials including the Woodstock Town Planner, Woodstock Conservation Commission, and Billings Park Commission throughout the planning process.
- Park staff met and discussed the Plan with the boards and representatives from various local forestry organizations, including Vermont Woodlands Association, Vermont Coverts, and Forest Stewards Guild.
- A memory workshop with local foresters, loggers, tree farm managers, and conservationists was held as part of the Forest Festival Weekend in September 2004. The workshop was facilitated by the Vermont Folklife Center, and

the public was invited to participate in listening to the personal accounts of the panel and contribute their own thoughts about the stewardship of local forests and Mount Tom. A total of approximately twenty people participated in the workshop.

- A workshop lead by William Cronon and Edward Linenthal on “Contested Landscapes: Humans and Nature in National Parks” was held September 23–24, 2004 at the Park. During the workshop, the Forest Management Plan was presented and discussed as a case study in a public evening program to an audience of over 100 participants. The workshop was part of the NPS Northeast Region civic engagement initiative to expand the relevance of parks through meaningful public engagement.
- During the George Wright Society “People, Places, and Parks: Preservation for Future Generations” meeting on March 14, 2005 the draft Plan and alternatives were presented to a group of thirty NPS colleagues and other interested professionals. The GWS is a non-profit association whose goal is to foster the protection, preservation, and management of cultural and natural parks and resources through research and education.
- A newsletter that contained overviews of the need for the Plan, proposed management goals, draft alternatives, and information for public involvement was sent to the 800 individuals and organizations on the Forest Management Plan mailing list in March 2005. The newsletter solicited two email responses.
- An article about the Plan and planning process was published in “Forest Matters,” the stewardship newsletter of the USDA Forest Service Northeast Area State and Private Forestry. The newsletter is distributed to approximately 1500 natural resource professionals, consulting foresters, and private forest landowners throughout the Northeast and Midwest.
- Consultation as part of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act was conducted with the Vermont State Historic Preservation Officer and staff. Meetings were held on March 19, 2004 and October 21, 2004 to review the need for the Plan, discuss management approaches, potential issues, and Section 106 compliance review. After reviewing a draft of the Plan, in a letter dated August 30, 2005, the SHPO concurred with the Park’s assessment that Alternative D, Recognize and Work with Ecological Change in Preserving the Historic Character of the Forest, is the most appropriate treatment approach of the four alternatives.
- Consultation as part of Section 404, wetlands, was conducted through a site visit with Mike Adams, Army Corps of Engineers, Section 404 coordinator on May 6th, 2004.

- Consultation as part of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (16 USC 1531-1544) was conducted through U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service review of the draft Forest Management Plan. In a letter dated July 10, 2005, Susi VanOttigen, USFWS Endangered Species Coordinator, determined that none of the actions proposed within the Plan will impact known federally listed Rare, Threatened or Endangered species.

## **6.3 LIST OF AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS TO WHICH COPIES OF THE DRAFT PLAN/EA WILL BE DISTRIBUTED**

An announcement publicizing the availability of the Draft Plan and Environmental Assessment will be distributed widely through the Park's Forest Management Plan mailing list (composed of approximately 800 organizations, local, state, and federal agencies, local residents, and other interested stakeholders), the Park's website, and local papers. In addition, the agencies and organizations below will be sent a copy of the Draft Plan and EA.

### **6.3.1 LOCAL**

Chateaugay No Town Conservation Committee  
Office of the Town and Village Manager, Woodstock, Vermont  
Office of the Town and Village Planner, Woodstock, Vermont  
Two-Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Planning Commission  
Woodstock's Billings Park Commission  
Woodstock Conservation Commission

### **6.3.2 STATE**

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources  
    Department of Fish and Wildlife  
    Department of Forest, Parks, and Recreation  
    Non-game and Natural Heritage Program  
Vermont Division of Historic Preservation, State Historic Preservation Office

### **6.3.3 FEDERAL**

Natural Resource Conservation Service  
USDA Forest Service  
Gray Towers National Historic Site  
Green Mountain National Forest  
State and Private Forestry  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Office of Senator Jeffords

Office of Senator Leahy  
Office of Representative Sanders

#### **6.3.4 OTHERS**

Billings Farm & Museum  
Clemson University, Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture  
The Conservation Fund  
Forest History Society  
Forest Stewards Guild  
Green Mountain College  
Harvard Forest  
Middlebury College  
National Wildlife Federation  
New England Forestry Foundation  
Norman Williams Public Library  
Paul Smiths College  
Pinchot Institute for Conservation  
Presidio Trust  
University of Vermont, Sustainable Forestry Program  
University of Vermont, Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources  
Vermont Coverts, Inc.  
Vermont Institute of Natural Science  
Vermont Woodlands Association  
Woodstock Foundation, Inc.  
Woodstock Resort Corporation

